

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

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**WILLOWS AREA CHP OFFICE EARNS STATE ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION**

Personnel from the Willows Area California Highway Patrol (CHP) Office were honored today at the State Capitol. Assemblymen Bernie Richter and Tom Woods were instrumental in bringing about the recognition of achievements of the Willows CHP Officers.

“This office has done a remarkable job of taking significant amounts of drugs out of the hands of dealers and preventing them from getting to our communities,” Assemblyman Richter said.

“I had been hearing about all the drug arrests and seizures from the news reports,” Assemblyman Woods said. “This amount of effort needs to be recognized for the benefit society receives when drugs do not reach our children.”

During 1996, officers from the Willows Area CHP made 25 major drug-related arrests. Over 309 pounds of marijuana, 11 pounds of cocaine, 37 pounds of methamphetamine and 1½ pounds of heroin were seized. The combined estimated street value of these drugs is approximately \$726,250. In addition to the drugs, Willows Area Officers seized seven vehicles and \$23,815 in cash from drug traffickers.

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“This resolution from the California State Assembly is an immense honor for the Willows personnel,” Willows Area CHP Commander Lieutenant Ed Fencel said. “The community should feel a great sense of pride over the achievements of our officers.

“Our drug interdiction success has been a team effort – an effort which is in addition to the many daily services officers provide to the motoring public,” Fencel concluded.

The resolution was presented to Lieutenant Fencel and other representatives from the Willows CHP Office on the floor of the California Assembly.

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